

Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)

When selecting a PFD, read the label to make sure it is for a person of your size and weight. Try your PFD on to make sure it fits properly and check to make sure it is U.S. Coast Guard approved.

Craft under 16 feet long:

If your boat is less than 16 feet long or it is a canoe or kayak, you must choose either wearable or throwable PFDs. You must still have one PFD for each person on board. The U.S. Coast Guard requires all vessels less than 16 feet, used on the Great Lakes or connecting waterways, to carry one wearable approved Type I, II, or III device for each person on board.

Craft 16 feet or longer:

If your boat is 16 feet or longer, you must have on board at least one Throwable Device (Type IV PFD), **PLUS** one of any of these wearable PFDs for each person on board:

- Offshore Life Jacket (Type I PFD)
- Near-shore Buoyant Vest (Type II PFD)
- Flotation Aid (Type III PFD)

Michigan law requires:

- Everyone operating, riding on, or being towed by a personal watercraft must wear Type I, II, or III PFD.
- Persons less than six years old must wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding on the open deck area of a boat underway.